

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0381

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8874

USIAC

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BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - PRESS REVIEW NOV 2

1. MEDIA FOCUS ON: (A) MEIR'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT
NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER: SPECULATION MN FUTURE US-ISRAEL
RELATIONSHIP; AND (C) ISRAEL'S ABILITY TO STAND FIRM ON ITS
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POSITION. HAARETZ (GOLAN) SAYS SENIOR OFFICIALS MAINTAIN
ISRAEL WILL NOT AGREE TO RETURN TO OCT 22 CEASEFIRE LINES.
HAARETZ (ROTTENSTEIN FROM NEW YORK) CITES US DIPLOMATIC
OBSERVERS AS SAYING ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO CHOSE BETWEEN US

MID EAST PLAN OR OPEN RIFT WITH US. DAVAR (ESHED) SAYS ISRAEL MUST SLOW DOWN PACE OF ITS CONTACTS WITH US, EXAMINE US REAL INTENTIONS AND CONSOLIDATE NEW ISRAELI PLAN FOR OPERATION. MAARIV (ZAK) BELIEVES MID EAST IS STILL SUBJECT TO MANY "CONFRONTATION GAMES" BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS. RABIN TOLD DAVAR (LANDRES) HE BELIEVES ISRAEL CAN PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF US POSITION SIMILAR TO ROGERS PLAN. AL HAMISHMAR (OREN) SAYS IT IS FOOLISH TO INTERPRET RECENT US DIPLOMATIC MOVES AS SUDDEN HOSTILITY TOWARD ISRAEL. PRESS NOTES MRS MEIR WILL REPORT TO NATION AT KNESSET (NOV 5). HAARETZ (TEVET) SAYS WAR DISCREDITED DAYAN-ELAZAR ESTIMATE THAT REGULAR ARMY CAN SUCCESSFULLY REPEL ARAB ATTACK. MEDIA ALSO HIGHLIGHT REPORTS FROM CAIRO ON EGYPT'S ALLEGED THREAT TO RESUME FIGHTING.

2. MEIR IN WASHINGTON: (A) MEDIA PROMINENTLY PLANNED PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER: PRESIDENT NIXON AND KISSINGER STATEMENTS AFTER MEETINGS AND MRS MEIR'S NEWS CONF (NOV 1).

(B) HAARETZ (GOLAN, CITING SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIALS, WRITES: "...GOI WILL ACCEPT- OR EVEN PERHAPS SUGGEST - REGULAR SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND WATER TO THE THIRD ARMY BUT ONLY AFTER ISRAEL'S DEMANDS REGARDING ITS POWS ARE SATISFIED... THIS DOES NOT MEAN ISRAEL WILL AGREE TO A PERMANENT CORRIDOR FROM CAIRO..."

(C) HAARETZ (ROTTENSTEIN FROM NEW YORK) WRITES: "US DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS BELIEVE... ISRAEL MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN A US MID EAST PLAN, WHICH PREJUDICES ISRAEL'S POLITICAL INTERESTS AND ITS LEGITIMATE TERRITORIAL INTERESTS... OR IGNORE THE US POSITION RISKING AN OPEN RIFT..."

(D) DAVAR (HISTADRUT) (BARNEA FROM WASHINGTON) WRITES: "IT SEEMS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON REQUESTED THAT ISRAEL CONTINUE TO ALLOW SUPPLIES TO REACH TO THE THIRD ARMY... DESPITE THE SECRECY WHICH SHROUDED MEIR-NIXON TALKS IT HAS BEEN LEARNED FROM US SOURCES THAT ISRAEL REJECTED KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL TO OPEN A CORRIDOR TO THE THIRD ARMY... IT HAS ALSO BEEN LEARNED THAT ISRAEL REQUESTED US ARMS SUPPLIES... ON CONVENIENT FINANCIAL TERMS."

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(D) DAVAR (ESHED) WRITES: "... THE NEED TO SLOW DOWN THE PACE OF CONTACTS WITH THE US IS NECESSARY FROM AN ISRAELI AND AN AMERICAN VIEWPOINT... SINCE THERE IS NO NEED TO REACH NEGATIVE CONCLUSIONS (NOW) ON THE US PLANS AND TENDENCIES... IT IS TIME FOR ISRAEL TO STOP, EXAMINE THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE AMERICANS AND TO COORDINATE AN OPERATION PLAN OF ITS OWN... THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK FOR ISRAELI LEADERS NOW IS TO RENEW THEIR CREDIBILITY AND ENHANCE THE NATION'S SELF-CONFIDENCE..."

(E) AL HAMISHMAR (OREN) WRITES: "US STRUGGLE AGAINST SOVIET TAKE OVER OF OUR REGION OBLIGATES THE US TO ACT TO RESTORE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE ARAB WORLD... AND MAINLY IN EGYPT.. SOVIET HEGEMONY IN THE MID EAST MEANS THE END OF ISRAEL... THE US, IN ITS STRUGGLE, NEEDS A STRONG AND

INDEPENDENT ISRAEL CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITS EXISTENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY."

(F) MAARIV (IND) EDITORIAL VIEWS MRS MEIR'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON AS A "CURBING STATE" OF US CONCESSIONS TO MOSCOW AND CAIRO.

(G) MAARIV (ZAK) COMMENTS: "... FOR THE TIME BEING THE THIRD ARMY IS THE CENTRAL AXIS OF WASHINGTON-JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON-MOSCOW-CAIRO TALKS... SINCE THE MID EAST DISPUTE IS STILL SUBJECT TO "CONFRONTATION GAMES" BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS, IT IS BETTER THAT WE REALIZE THAT THE THIRD CLAUSE (OF THE CEASEFIRE RES) WHICH TALKS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS... IS FULL OF MINE...(AND) IS NOT A SURE NEGOTIATING'... THE SOVIETS WANT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO REVOLVE ON THE IMAGE OF ISRAEL - RATHER THAN ON THE BORDERS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES... THEY WOULD LIKE A NEW VIETNAM WHERE THE DEBATES ARE HELD ON THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE WITH ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS SITTING AROUND.... IN ORDER (FOR ISRAEL) TO PREVENT A 'VIETNAMIZATION' OF THE MID EAST DEBATE... IT IS BETTER THAT WE REFRAIN FROM GLORIFYING THE CHANCES FOR PEACE TALKS BASED ON THE 'MOSCOW AGREEMENT.'"

(H) EX-ISRAELI AMB TO US RABIN TOLD DAVAR (LANDRES) THAT BECAUSE OF US INTEREST TO AVERT DANGER OF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN MID EAST, US IS PERHAPS MAKING INACCURATE CALCULATIONS WHICH ARE NOT JUSTIFIED FOR ISRAEL. RABIN EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT ISRAEL CAN PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF A SITUATION WHERE US POSITION WILL BE SIMILAR TO (CONCEPTS OF) ROGERS PLAN.

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(I) MK MOSHE CARMEL, WRITING FOR DAVAR, NOTES: "THERE IS REASON TO ASSUME THAT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH US WE WILL APPROACH A NEW ERA OF UPS AND DOWNS, SWINGING BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING AND ARGUMENTS, COORDINATION AND DISPUTE, GENEROUS AID AND RIFT... WE WILL, APPARENTLY, HAVE TO LISTEN CAREFULLY AND STILL MAINTAIN OUR ERECT POSTURE... BOTH OF THEM ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SECURITY AND FUTURE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE.

3. VPIETNAM: COMMENTING ON REPORTS RE "HEATING" OF VIETNAM FRONT, HAARETZ EDITORIALIZES: " THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT COMES TO ISRAEL... IS OF COURSE THAT MOSCOW WANTS TO OPEN A NEW FRONT WHICH WILL COMMAND A LARGER PORTION OF US ATTENTION AND PERHAPS A RESUMPTION OF US INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM.. IN ORDER TO LIMIT US MANEUVERING CAPABILITIES IN THE MID EAST... THIS APPROACH CONFORMS TO THE SOVIET METHODS.. BY THE SAME TOKEN MANY RESERVATIONS COULD BE MADE ON ABOVE ESTIMATE..."

4. IDF'S PREPAREDNESS TO REPEL ARABS: (A) HAARETZ' TEVET, COMMENTING ON RECENT CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVIEW WHICH ATTRIBUTED IDF'S DIFFICULTIES IN FIRST DAYS OF WAR TO "LACK OF SUFFICIENT WARNING," REMARKS: "WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED IS THAT

BOTH THE CHIEF OF STAFF AMP THE DEFENSE MINISTER THOUGHT THAT THE REGULAR ARMY COULD SUCCESSFULLY REPEL AN ARAB ATTACK, OR AT LEAST CURB IT UNTIL RESERVES WERE MOBILIZED... IF THE GOI HAD THENKNOWN WHAT IT KNOWS TODAY, IT DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SAME DECISION (NOT TO LAUNCH PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE)..."

(B) MEIR Y'ARI WRITING FOR AL HAMISHMAR, NOETES: "IN REALITY IT HAS BEEN PROVED THAT IT IS EASIER TO WIN A WAR WITH A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE LAUNCHED BY ISRAEL, EVEN FROM BOUNDARIES WHICH WE HELD BEFORE THE SPH-DAY WAR, THAN A WAR INITIATED BY OUR ENEMIES DESPITE THE STRATEGIC DEPTH... THAT SEPARATES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SUEZ CANAL..."
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